





# Summer Work & Travel Program Recruitment Agencies

United States Consulate General, Chiang Mai October 15, 2010



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- Introductions
- Program Overview
- Application Procedure
- Preparing applications & applicants
- Agency Responsibilities
- Expectation and Communication
- Questions



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### Introductions: Please tell us about your agency...

#### **Basic Information**

- 1. Agency Name
- 2. Is your main office in Chiang Mai? If not, where is it?
- 3. Which U.S. agencies do you work with?

#### **Information for Consulate use only**

- 4. Name and e-mail address of agency point of contact
- 5. Name and e-mail address of back-up agency contact
- 6. How many SWT participants do you anticipate in 2010?

### Information for prospective clients

- 7. Office location
- 8. Website
- 9. Telephone number
- 10. How much does the average SWT client pay for your services (THB)?



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### **Program Overview**

A bona fide foreign post-secondary student in his or her own country currently enrolled in and actively pursuing a degree or a <u>full-time course</u> <u>of study</u> at an accredited academic institution, or as that status is defined by the alien's home country educational system.

#### **SWT participants:**

- must have completed at least their first year of post-secondary education
- may work and travel for maximum of four months during their summer vacations
- will work in low- or un-skilled service positions at resorts, hotels, restaurants, and amusement parks

Bottom line: Fun, but not vacation!



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### **SWT Application Process Overview**

#### 1. Early in the process

- Agency makes an appointment
- Agency prepares application packet and applicant
- Applicant prepares himself for interview

#### 2. One week before interview

- Agency submits application packets to Consulate for screening
- Consulate screens packets, informs agency of which ones accepted
- Consulate does data entry of accepted applications

#### 3. Interview day

- Applicants come to the Consulate
- Consulate staff fingerprint, then interview applicants
- Decision on the spot; successful applicants get visas by mail



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### **Application Process Overview 1: Early in the process**

### Agency makes an appointment for an SWT applicant

- Online appointment system; group PIN
- Season: December 15, 2010-March 30, 2011
  - Most Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00-9:00 a.m.
  - Appointment slots evenly distributed throughout season get in early!
- Agencies responsible for coordinating applicant schedules, including exams or students coming from far away.

### Agency prepares visa application and supporting documents

# Agency prepares applicant for interview; applicant prepares himself for interview

- Once applicant signs application, he's responsible for it
- Set your clients up for success prepare them for interviews



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### **ON-LINE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM**

https://thailand.us-visaservices.com/Forms/default.aspx

**Use group PIN** 

If you need one, contact:

(email address redacted)





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### **Preparing SWT Application Packets: 1 of 2**

- 1. Completed Form DS-160 Non-immigrant Visa Application
  - DS-160 Confirmation Sheet
  - Printed Review Sheet all pages
- 2. **Passport**: Must be valid 6 months beyond intended departure from the U.S.
- 3. <u>One color photograph</u>: 2 inches x 2 inches on a white background Unretouched, ears visible, no head coverings, no color or "big eye" contact lenses. Bring even if uploaded photo accepted by DS-160.
- 4. **Form DS-2019** from sponsoring agency **signed** by applicant and the information must match applicant's passport information.
- 5. Form I-901 SEVIS fee receipt



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# Form DS-160 Nonimmigrant Visa Application.

- \* Print confirmation page.
- \* Print review sheet ALL PAGES.
- \* You can e-mail the confirmation to someone else (e.g., if you are completing the application for another person)

Barcode is printed clearly, without smudges.





Form DS-2019 A

# FY11 SUMMER WORK AND TRAVEL PROGRAM (SWT) BRIEFING FOR SWT RECRUITMENT AGENCIES

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Form I-901 >



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### **Preparing SWT Application Packets: 2 of 2**

- 6. Letter from applicant's university confirming enrollment status
- 7. Academic transcripts from applicant's university
- 8. Pay-at-the-Post receipts for visa application (MRV) fee
  - Bring both blue & white copies
- 9. Thai Post passport passback envelope
  - Must purchase from Mae Ping Post Office or CMU post office
  - Must be addressed to student himself NOT agency

SCREENING CHECKLIST TO FOLLOW BY E-MAIL



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# Preparing your clients: What does a good SWT applicant look like?

- English skills adequate to the job
- Knows what's on his/her application
- Good students with good grades
- Clear academic plans
- Parents have finances to pay for the program
- Long-term, full-time student in Northern Thailand
  - House registration not enough
  - No short-term, part-time, or exchange students, please!



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### **Application Process Overview 2: Week before interview**

# Agency brings packets to Consulate for screening 7 calendar days before appointment

- Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- Agency staff member who delivers them will wait for screener to work
- At the same time, agency also sends the electronic version of mailing consignment list which has names of all applications submitted.

#### **Consulate screens packets**

- Complete packets are accepted for interview the next week
- Incomplete packets are rejected; Consulate provides checklist for each.
  - Agency has until next screening day to correct and still keep same interview day

#### Once you submit application packet, make no changes to DS-160 information

• If you need to change any info on DS-160 after submitting packet, must start over



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### **Application Process Overview 3: Interview Day**

### SWT applicants come to the Consulate at the designated time

- Restrictions on carried items: books and papers ONLY
- Applicant should bring supporting documents, including complete financial documentation

#### Consulate staff call up applicants by name

If we didn't accept the application, the applicant won't be called

#### Consulate staff fingerprint, then interview applicants

- Unsuccessful applicants may apply again through their agencies
- Successful applicants receive their visas by mail within 3 work day
  - But cannot enter U.S. until 30 days before program start date



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### **Responsibilities: Agency – Applicant – Consulate**

#### 1. Early in the process

- Agency makes an appointment
- Agency prepares application packet and applicants
- Applicant prepares him/herself for interview

#### 2. One week before interview

- Agency submits application packets to Consulate for screening
- Consulate screens packets, informs agency of which accepted
- Consulate does data verification of accepted applications

#### 3. Interview day

- Applicants come to the Consulate 30 minutes before appointment
- Consulate staff fingerprint, then interview applicants
- Visa approved or refused; successful applicants get visas by mail



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### **Expectations for Agencies**

You will do everything possible to set your clients up for success

- Visa process
- In the United States: expectations management

### When applicants have problems, we will refer them to you

- Schedule conflicts: exams, family trips
- Can't get to interview because incomplete application
- Refused because didn't know what's on application
- Stranded at the airport because ticket problems

### **Communication**

No direct communication between agencies or applicants and Consulate until interview

Everything through agencies
 Use e-mail address (email address redacted)



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### Thank you for your attention

**Questions?** 

E-mail for inquiries: (email address redacted)